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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to resist the natural tendency for businesses to protect themselves from competition and carve out near-monopolies. That tendency is becoming a critically important issue in Internet access in the U. S. Our access costs are much higher than in many other countries and the quality (not just speed) much worse.

Internet access is now as critical as even water or power. We cannot run our businesses, much less our homes, our education activities, without quality Internet service! And the cost is all but prohibitive for poor families, who are increasingly being left behind, which is unfair and also extremely foolish.

We desperately need more and better-educated workers, and the Internet is increasingly essential to achieving that. Online education is becoming the key asset to the breakthrough we need.

Please step up and be counted! This is a critical point in defining our country's future!

Thank you for listening,

Richard Betts